

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A control method of providing
2 ~~speed information relative to a legal speed limit, the~~
3 method comprising the steps of:

4 determining a first speed limit, corresponding to
5 an area to be entered, said legal speed limit as a function
6 of both position information and a direction of travel
7 ~~stored information indicating the legal speed limit at each~~
8 ~~of a plurality of different geographic locations;~~

9 determining a second speed limit, corresponding to
10 a current position as a function of said position
11 information; and

12 performing, when said first determined speed limit
13 is lower than said second determined speed limit, a control
14 operation as a function of said first determined speed
15 limit.

16 ~~comparing a current speed to said legal speed~~
17 ~~limit; and~~

18 ~~———— alerting the user if the current speed differs~~
19 ~~from the legal speed limit by a set amount.~~

1 Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further
2 comprising the step of:

3 obtaining said ~~current~~ position information from a
4 global positioning device.

1 Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein
2 said control operation is a vehicle speed control operation
3 and where the vehicle is an automobile. the set amount is a
4 positive amount resulting in notification when said legal
5 speed limit is exceeded by said positive amount.

1 Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 2 1,
2 further comprising: where the set amount is a negative

~~3 amount resulting in notification when the current speed~~
~~4 drops below said speed limit by the set amount.~~
5 comparing a current speed to said second speed
6 limit; and
7 alerting a user if a current speed differs from
8 the second speed limit by a set amount set by the user.

1 Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 2 4,
2 further comprising the step of:
3 calculating the current speed from changes in
4 position information obtained from the global positioning
5 device over a period of time.

1 Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 2 1,
2 further comprising:
3 storing speed limit information in a data storage
4 device; and
5 periodically updating the stored speed limit
6 information indicating the legal speed limit by downloading
7 update information using a wireless communications device
8 over the Internet.

1 Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~4~~ 4,
2 further comprising the step of:
3 storing said set amount as a speed limit offset
4 value.

1 Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein
2 ~~the method further involves controlling said control~~
3 operation includes adjusting the speed of a said vehicle,
4 ~~the method further comprising:~~
5 ~~————— comparing the current speed to a speed set~~
6 ~~relative to said legal speed limit; and~~
7 ~~————— adjusting the speed of the vehicle to reduce any~~
8 ~~different between said speed set relative to said speed~~
9 ~~limit and said legal speed limit.~~

1 Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein
2 the method is further directed to generating speed trap
3 alert notifications, the method further comprising:

4 comparing ~~current~~ position information to
5 information on the location of known speed traps; and
6 generating an alert signal when said comparing
7 operation indicates that the current position is ~~approaching~~
8 near the location of a known speed trap.

1 Claim 10 (currently amended): A method of controlling a
2 speed of a vehicle, the method comprising:

3 obtaining vehicle position information from a
4 global positioning system device;

5 determining, as a function of said obtained
6 position information, a first and a second ~~accessing~~ stored
7 ~~legal~~ speed limit, the first speed limit corresponding to an
8 area to be entered, the second speed limit corresponding to
9 the current position of the vehicle ~~information as a~~
10 ~~function of position information to determine the applicable~~
11 ~~legal speed limit;~~ and

12 modifying the speed of the vehicle as a function
13 of at least one of the ~~applicable legal~~ determined first and
14 second speed limit limits.

1 Claim 11 (currently amended): The method of claim 10,
2 ~~further comprising wherein said modifying includes reducing~~
3 the speed of the vehicle when said first speed limit is
4 lower than said second speed limit.

5 ~~receiving said position information from a global~~
6 ~~positioning system device.~~

1 Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~11~~ 10,
2 further comprising:

3 ~~—determining a speed set relative to the applicable~~
4 ~~legal speed limit as a function of the applicable legal~~
5 ~~speed limit and a stored speed offset value; and~~

6 ~~wherein the step of modifying the speed of the~~
7 ~~vehicle includes:~~
8 ~~comparing the speed set relative to an applicable~~
9 ~~speed limit to a current speed of the vehicle; and~~
10 controlling the speed of the vehicle to reduce any
11 difference between ~~the~~ a speed set by a user of said vehicle
12 relative to the ~~applicable~~ second speed limit and ~~the~~ a
13 current speed of the vehicle.

1 Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 12, further
2 comprising the step of:
3 determining the current speed of the vehicle from
4 changes in position information over time.

1 Claim 14 (currently amended): The method of claim 11,
2 further comprising the step of:
3 storing speed limit information; and
4 updating the stored legal speed limit information
5 using speed limit information received over the Internet.

1 Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~11~~ 10
2 further comprising:
3 accessing stored information indicating a speed at
4 which a user has requested to receive a speed alert; and
5 comparing the speed of the vehicle to a speed at
6 which the user has requested a speed alert; and
7 providing a speed alert to the user when the speed
8 of the vehicle matches a speed at which the user has
9 requested to receive a speed alert.

Claims 16-19 (canceled)

1 Claim 20 (currently amended): A vehicle speed control
2 system, comprising:
3 ~~a database of legal speed limit information;~~
4 a global positioning device for indicating the
5 position of the vehicle;

6 means for ~~accessing~~ determining the database of
7 ~~speed limit information as a function of position~~
8 ~~information provided by the global positioning device to~~
9 ~~determine the legal speed limit that will be applicable to~~
10 ~~the vehicle upon entry into an area in the direction of~~
11 ~~vehicle travel based on its~~ the vehicle's current location
12 as indicated by the global positioning device and the
13 direction of vehicle travel; and
14 cruise control circuitry for controlling the speed
15 of the vehicle as a function of the determined ~~legal~~ speed
16 limit in the area to be entered when said determined speed
17 limit is lower than a speed limit corresponding to the
18 current position of the vehicle.

Claims 21-23 (canceled)

1 Claim 24 (new): The method of claim 10, wherein said
2 vehicle is an automobile.

1 Claim 25 (new): The vehicle control system of claim 20,
2 wherein said vehicle is an automobile.

1 Claim 26 (new): The vehicle speed control system of claim
2 25, wherein said control system is integrated directly into
3 the automobile.